

Message Text

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72

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 L-02 SCA-01 H-02 PA-02 PRS-01

USIE-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

SNM-02 SY-05 TRSE-00 NSC-05 OES-05 OMB-01 SSO-00

INRE-00 NSCE-00 /054 W

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O 072335Z MAR 75 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6588

UNCLAS MEXICO 2088

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MX

SUBJECT: ARREST AND DETENTION: PROBLEM OF AMERICAN PRISONERS
INCARCERATED IN MEXICO CITY.

REF: ANDERSON/MULLEN TELCON MARCH 7.

FOR SCS

1. QUOTED BELOW IS FREE TRANSLATION OF AP ITEM WHICH APPEARED
IN EXCELSIOR, MARCH 7, 1975:

"THEY SPEAK ABOUT BAD TREATMENT - MOTION MADE BY REPRESENTATIVE
FORTNEY STARK; LAWYER ACCUSED OF EXPLOITING THE PRISONERS;
THE MAJORITY OF THESE, IN TROUBLE DUE TO DRUGS. WASHINGTON, MARCH
6 (AP) - THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS INITIATED STEPS TO
REQUEST FROM PRESIDENT GERALD FORD ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION
REGARDING THE PRESUMED MISTREATMENT OF AMERICAN PRISONERS IN THE
JAILS IN MEXICO."

"REPRESENTATIVE FORTNEY STARK, OF CALIFORNIA, PROPOSES TO
USE THE CONGRESSIONAL PROCEDURE KNOWN AS THE "RESOLUTION FOR
INVESTIGATION" TO REQUEST THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO FURNISH
DATA ON THE SUBJECT."

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"STARK TOOK THIS STEP AFTER THE FAILURE OF HIS FIRST EFFORT TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE".

"AFTERTWO MONTHS OF INVESTIGATION, A COMMISSION FROM THE DEPARTMENT DELIVERED AN EIGHT PAGE REPORT WHICH ONE OF STARK'S ASSISTANTS CALLED AN 'INSULT'. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT RESULT OF THE REPORT WAS THE ADMISSION BY THE DEPARTMENT THAT SOME AMERICAN PRISONERS IN MEXICO ARE IN 'DANGEROUS CONDITIONS'". "AT THE PRESENT TIME THERE ARE NEARLY 500 AMERICANS DETAINED IN MEXICO. IN THEIR MAJORITY FOR CRIMES RELATEDWITH DRUGS".

"THIS AGENCY OBTAINED A COPY OF THE REPORT PRESENTED TO STARK BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN WHICH IT IS AFFIRMED THAT "THERE IS NO EVIDENT BASIS" FOR THE ACCUSATION TO THE EFFECT THAT THE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES DISCRIMINATE AGAINST AMERICANS IN THE APPLICATION OF LAWS RELATED WITH DRUGS."

"HOWEVER, THE REPORT ADDS THAT THE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES 'ON OCCASION DO NOT FULLY COMPLY WITH THEIR INSTITUTINAL OBLIGATION' OF PERMITTING AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS TO PLACE THEMSELVES IN CONTACT WITH PRISONERS OF THAT NATIONALITY".

"WITH REFERENCE TO THE CHARGE THAT MEXICAN ATTORNEYS HAVE OBLIGED AMERICAN PRISONERS AND THEIR FAMILIES TO SPEND CONSIDERABLE SUMS OF MONEY, THE REPORT INDICATES THAT 'THE MAJORITY OF SUCH CASES ARE RELATED WITH A LAWYER NAMED JORGE AVILES'".

"THE EMBASSY HAS MADE ACTIVE EFFORTS TO DENOUNCE AVILES AND OTHERS LIKE HIM' THE STUDY STATES. 'RECENTLY, THE EMBASSY HELPED A VICTIM TO INITIATE LEGAL ACTION WHICH LED TO THE ISSUANCE OF AN ORDER OF ARREST AGAINST AVILES FOR ACCUSATIONS OF FRAUD'".

2. QUOTED BELOW IS FREE TRANSLATION OF ITEM WHICH APPEARED IN EL HERALDO ON MARCH 5, 1975:

"LECUMBERRI PRISON WILL DISAPPEAR IN THE NEAR FUTURE. BY RAMIREZ MENDEZ - EL HERALDO, MARCH 5, 1975 - DURING THIS YEAR THE ANCIENT AND INOPERABLE INSTALLATIONS OF THE OLD LECUMBERRI PRISON SHALL DISAPPEAR, IN ORDER TO BE SUBSTITUTED UNCLASSIFIED

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BY THE MODERN PENITENTIARY SERVICES OF THE FOUR NEW PRISONS EACH WITH A CAPACITY FOR 1,200 INTERNEES".

"WE WERE SO INFORMED BY DR. GUSTAVO MALO CAMACHO, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRISONS IN THE FEDERAL DISTRICT, UPON POINTING OUT THE FACT THAT THE PRISON AT THE NORTH (OF THE CITY), LOCATED IN CUAUTEPEC IN THE GUSTAVO A. MADERO DELEGATION, AND THE MEDICAL CENTER FOR SOCIAL READAPTATION,

WHICH IS LOCATED ON AN AREA OF 30,000 SQUARE METERS IN TEPEPAN,
IN THE XOCHIMILCO DELEGATION, SHALL SOON BE TERMINATED".

"THE OTHER MODERN PRISONS ARE LOCATED IN SAN MATEO XALPA,
WITHIN THE MENTIONED XOCHIMILCO DELEGATION, IN SAN
LORENZO TEZONCO, IN THE IXTAPALAPA JURISDICTION, AND IN SAN MATEO
TLATENANGO, IN THE ALVARO OBREGON DELEGATION, WHOSE CONSTRUCTION
IS BEING CARRIED OUT ON CONTEMPORARY PRISON BASES AND
TECHNIQUES".

"THESE FOUR PRISONS AND THE MEDICAL CENTER FOR SOCIAL
READAPTATION, THIS LAST WITH A CAPACITY FOR 340 INTERNEES,
MAKE UP THE PENITENTIARY AND REHABILITATION SYSTEM OF THE
INDIVIDUAL AND HIS INTEGRATION INTO SOCIETY".
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PRISONERS WELFARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MEXICO02088
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750081-0169
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750372/aaaacnae.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SCSE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2003 by RuthemTJ>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARREST AND DETENTION: PROBLEM OF AMERICAN PRISONERS INCARCERATED IN MEXICO CITY.
TAGS: CASC, SHUM, MX, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006